



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA'S MICHAEL A. RIES ICE RINK IS READY FOR ITS CLOSE-UP

(PARMA) – A partnership between the city of Parma and several community organizations has given the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink a brand new, state of the art look that will benefit residents and skaters of all ages. The ice rink will open for the season September 2.

“This has been a group effort by the city, local schools, booster clubs and other groups,” said Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi. “The heavy lifting, so to speak, was done by the city for financing major renovations during the off-season. But we couldn’t have done it without the added help from our community partners.”

The city of Parma spent nearly \$100,000 to replace the rink’s dasher boards and glass paneling surrounding the arena. The Parma Amateur Athletic Federation (PAFF) donated \$15,000 to help defray the building and rehabilitation costs while the Parma Hockey Association pitched-in more than \$10,000 in paint and supplies.

“The Michael A. Ries Ice Rink is a valuable asset to our community,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “This is a quality of life issue for our residents, especially our youth, and we’re lucky to have such a facility that essentially makes our great city even greater.”

Still to come is another major undertaking at the ice rink – upgrading the roof and the building’s lighting system. The \$250,000 price tag will be paid with a Capital Appropriations grant from the state of Ohio.

This past June, vocational students from Normandy, Valley Forge and Parma Senior High School’s Carpentry and Building Trades classes completed concession stand, skate room and locker room upgrades. Supervising teachers separated the ice rink school projects into four separate phases, making the building more user-friendly for patrons.

“The ice rink has always been family-friendly and a family-oriented destination,” said Mayor DePiero. “This reinforces that attitude, making sure we stay ahead of the curve when it comes to keeping the rink in the excellent condition our residents have come to expect.

(more)

The rink was originally constructed in 1959 as an outdoor facility for the City of Parma. The ice rink has not had any major renovations made to it since 1983 when it was enclosed. In 1994, the rink officially was dedicated as the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink in honor of the former Parma Mayor.

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